

Industry Circular



Internal Revenue Service

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division
Washington, D.C. 20224

Industry Circular 71- 4

March 9, 1971

METER TESTS

To Brewers and others Concerned:

Industry Circular No. 70-35 advised you of the proposed changes in the beer regulations which would require brewers to test their own beer meters. Treasury Decision 7091 makes the proposed changes effective May 1, 1971. Much concern has been expressed by some brewers that, because of their remote location and lack of personnel qualified to make meter tests and adjustments, the proposed regulations might result in a hardship to them.

When we prepared our proposal we recognized that requiring brewers to have their meters tested by State or local authorities, might be a hardship for some brewers. Accordingly, the regulations provide that Assistant Regional Commissioners may approve procedures tailored to individual brewery requirements. Thus, you could be authorized to test your meters by use of an accurately calibrated tank instead of by comparison with a test meter or other device. This tank, commonly designated as a prover tank, could be one of your existing bottling or cellar tanks which, of course, could be used for regular brewery operations when it was not being used for testing purposes. Also, your employees could make these tests.

We will do everything possible to assure your making the transition without involving substantial additional expense to you. To this end, for those of you who have a problem because there is no one in your locality or in your brewery who is able to conduct the necessary tests, we will furnish assistance in training your employees to make the tests, including the use of master meters in calibrating prover tanks. In an emergency situation, we will for a short period of time, so long as our master meters are available, make the meter tests.

Instructions are being issued to your Assistant Regional Commissioner, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, directing him to provide you with such advice and assistance in installing testing procedures. Therefore, you should contact him immediately if you have any difficulty in establishing your meter tests procedures in order that he may arrange assistance for you.

Rex D. Davis, Acting Director
Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division